

Blume inducted into Hall of Honor

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LAS VEGAS — A star during Oregon State men's basketball's most notable era has received another award.

Ray Blume, a guard on two straight Pac-10 championship teams, was inducted Friday into the Pac-12 Basketball Hall of Honor during the conference tournament.

Blume, who attended OSU's first-round game Wednesday against California and Friday's ceremony, said it's a recognition he wasn't expecting.

"It's a great honor that the school picked me," he said before the Beavers' game against Cal. "It's a great honor for the teammates I played with. I can't describe it in words."

Blume joins former coaches Ralph Miller (2006) and Jimmy Anderson (2016) and former teammates Steve Johnson (2007) and Charlie Sitton (2013) in the Hall of Honor, which has inducted one player or coach from every Pac-12 school every year since 2002.

A Portland native and Parkrose High alum, Blume was an All-American as an Oregon State junior in 1980 and a two-time all-conference selection. He averaged 11.6 points during a four-year career in which the Beavers went 86-27 under Miller and reached the NCAA tournament in his junior and senior seasons.

The 1980-81 team was ranked first in the country for nearly two months. That season ended with a 50-48 loss to Kansas State in an NCAA West Regional game in Los Angeles. Rolando Blackman's jumper with less than two seconds left ended the Beavers' season with a 26-2 record.

Blume described the teams he



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Ray Blume's Oregon State teams went 86-27 during his career, including 26-2 in 1980-81. He was inducted into the Pac-12 Hall of Honor on Friday.

played on and Miller, a Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame coach, as "unique."

"Once we stepped on the court we all wanted to win and we wanted to play like Ralph wanted us to play. We played together and we were very unselfish," he said.

"We weren't the best of friends off the court. We didn't hang out with everybody all the time. But once we got on the court we played basketball together."

He calls those teams' style as "simple basketball." He says the chemistry and Miller's style were what made the teams successful.

Blume said what also stood out about the Beavers then was that many of the key players were from the state of Oregon.

Blume, Mark Radford (Portland), Charlie Sitton (McMinnville) and

Jeff Stouff (Lake Oswego) were all in-state products.

"I just think it's great for the program. The state gets behind you," Blume said. "I know, when we were playing, three or four thousand people would meet us at the airport just to see us. They just flocked to us."

Following his Oregon State days, Blume played a season for the NBA's Chicago Bulls and later in Europe.

Blume has worked for the Multnomah County Road Department in Portland the past 28 years and most recently as a team leader. He was inducted into the OSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004.

Blume says the attraction of Oregon State men's basketball has drawn him back in recent years.

"I think (coach Wayne) Tinkle is

doing a pretty good job with them," he said. "They've had some injuries this year, unfortunate. Those things happen. But he's got them working hard. We'll see some good things out of them hopefully by next year."

The Beavers finished their season at 5-27, but Blume says he likes the direction the program is headed under Tinkle.

He gets back to Gill Coliseum for three or four games a year. Though getting up at 4 a.m. for work makes it difficult to get to night games.

"I think they've got the right coach in there," Blume said. "He's doing some good things. He's getting some recruits in there. I'd like to see some more of the Oregon kids come to Oregon State like the old days, but I think Wayne is working on that."